(d) Irrigation projects are planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own budgetary resources. Central assistance is given in the form of block loans and grants not tied to any sector of development or to any project. Initial expenditure on externally-aided projects is incurred by the State Government and subsequently reimbursement obtained from donor agency. The concerned State(s) are to provide adequate budget provision to the respective externally assisted project(s) so as to ensure completion in given time.

**Multi barrage project on Godavari River**

1316. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored a multi barrage project on Godavari River between Polavaram and Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) by when this survey was done and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received in Central Water Commission.

**Amount spent on ONG Irrigation Project in Orissa**

1317. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent till date on ONG Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) whether any period has been fixed for completing the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The expenditure upto March 1996 on ONG Stage-I and ONG Dam (Chiroli) in Orissa is Rs. 21.41 crores and Rs. 2.42 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) ONG Stage-I is in advance stage of completion and ONG Dam (Chiroli) is an unapproved project.

**Preventive Measures to check floods in Punjab anbd Andhra Pradesh**

1318. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to take preventive measures to check recurring floods in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take similar preventive measures to check recurring floods in Andhra Pradesh and other States of country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Under the constitution, Irrigation and Flood control are State subjects. Their planning, execution and funding is done Assistance, Priventive measures to check floods in Punjab are taken by the State Government. However Ministry of Water Resources has been providing Central Assistance of Rs. 1.5 crores annually on an average in the flood sector to the Government of Punjab for construction of flood protection works along Indo-Pak border on rivers Ravi and Sutlej. Ministry of Home Affairs has also released Rs. 11 crores to the Government of Punjab in February, 1997 for construction of Flood Management Works on river Ravi and Sutlej.

(c) and (d) In order to examine the problems of flood and flood management, Government of India constituted five regional task forces on 30.9.1996 with the participation of very senior officers from the Centre and State Governments of the region to examine the regional flood problem in detail, review existing remedial measures adopted so far and recommend measures for comprehensive solutions to the problem including better maintenance of existing

works and for effective funding of the projects in the flood sector besides mobilising youths for the purpose. Secretary (Irrigation), Government of Andhra Pradesh is a Member of the Southern Regional Task Force. The final report of the Task Force is expected to suggest comprehensive solution to the flood problem of each State.

**Sinking of artesian wells in Tamil Nadu**

1319. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider sinking artesian wells in completely dry and backward districts like Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu to provide water for drinking and irrigation;

(b) whether Government have any programme for such dry regions to enable farmers to cultivate their land lying barren now; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider a scheme for developing the region?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Sinking of wells for drinking water and irrigation is planned, financed and implemented by the State Government. However, in its programme of scientific exploration of ground water the Central Ground Water Board has identified an artesian belt in an area of 4600 sq. kilometers in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, including Ramanthapuram district.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Development of ground water for various purposes, including sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry regions, is the responsbility of State Governments. However, the district of Ramanthapuram in Tamil Nadu has been covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment under which development of such areas is taken up on watershed project basis. A Comprehensive Watershed Development Project supported by Danish International Development Agency was also launched in the district of Ramanthapuram in the year 1994 with the objective to check further land degradation and develop sustainable and cost effective system for utilisation of land resources and create long term opportunities for employment of local committees. The main contents of the project include development of agro-forestry, dry-land horticulture system and conservation of rain water.

**Financial Assistance to Bhagiratha Project**

1320. SHRIMATI REMUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal in February, 1996 for financial assistance for Bhagiratha river water project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the districts to be benefited as per the proposals; and

(d) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Protection of coastal Land in Andhra Pradesh**

1321. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes for protection of Coastal Land in Andhra Pradesh from Sea erosion has been drawn up;

(b) if so, the details of areas included in the scheme;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the scheme; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been laid down for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.